

# LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE HEARING MARCH 10, 2011

SENATOR PRAGUE, REPRESENTATIVE ZALASKI and MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MY NAME IS CAMERON CHAMPLIN, I REPRESENT THE PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION 777. I AM HERE TO EXPRESS THE SERIOUS CONCERNS OF THE LOCAL AND ITS 3600 MEMBERS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO BILL# 990. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT PREVAILING WAGE LAW.

YOU WILL HEAR TESTIMONY TODAY ABOUT THE PRECEPTION THAT BY CHANGING THE PRESENT PREVAILING WAGE STATUES IT WILL SAVE ANYWHERE FROM 10 TO 30% ON PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS. CONCLUSIONS FROM THE STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH AND THE STATE OF LEGISLATURE'S PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE PROVE THIS IS WRONG. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY STUDIES PERFORMED BY UNBIASED PARTIES OR A UNIVERSITY THAT PROVE OTHERWISE. IF I WAS A MAYOR OR FIRST SELECTMAN I WOULD WANT TO SEE CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT THE SAVINGS COULD BE REALIZED BEFORE TESTIFYING OR ENCOURAGING LEGISLATORS TO CHANGE THE STATUES IN ANY WAY. THE WAGES AND BENEFITS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THIS LAW ARE A BENEFIT TO NOT ONLY THE EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THESE PROJECTS, BUT BUSINESSES IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. A WAGE WHICH PROVIDES SOME SPENDABLE INCOME, AFFORDS CITIZENS TO PAY FOR THE SERVICES WHICH BUSINESSES THRIVE ON. WETHER IT IS A RESTAURANT, AUTO DEALER ,BEAUTY SHOP, OR THE BUTCHER, BAKER OR CANDLESTICK MAKER, THEY NEED CUSTOMERS. ALSP, EMPLOYEES EARNING A GOOD WAGE WYH HEALTH AND PENSION BENEFITS DO NOT HAVE TO RELY ON THE COMMUNITY WHEN TIMES GET ROUGH. I HAVE ATTACHED A LETTER TO MY TESTIMONY WHICH IS SELF EXPLANATORY AND CONFIRMS THAT THESE BENEFITS HELP PROVIDE A DECENT QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGHOUT A LIFETIME.

ONE ASPECT OF THIS LAW THAT ISN'T TALKED ABOUT IS THE EDUCATION THAT IS PROVIDED TO THE APPRENTICES OF ORGANIZED LABOR. EVERY UNION HAS THEIR OWN TRAINING FACILITY FINANCED BY A DEDUCTION FROM WAGES. THIS IS AN ITEM WHICH IS NEGOTIATED THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT IN LIEU OF WAGES. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT SPELLED OUT IN THE STATUES, IT IS IN FACT ONE THING THAT ENABLES THE UNIONS TO SAVE THE STATE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING. OUR APPRENTICES ARE CHARGED A MINIMAL FEE FOR THEIR EDUCATION. THEY HAVE TO PAY A FIFTY (\$50) DOLLAR REGISTRATION FEE TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT LABOR DEPARTMENT AND PAY FOR CODE BOOKS WHICH THEY WILL USE THROUGHT THEIR CAREER. OUR FUND PAYS A SIXTY(\$60) DOLLAR FEE TO THE STATE FOR EACH APPRENTICE THAT WE REGISTER.

WHEN I ENTERD MY APPRENTICESHIP IN 1965 I ATTENDED NORWICH REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR THE CLASSROOM PORTION WHICH CONSISTED OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY FOUR HOURS EACH YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS. THE CLASSES WERE THREE HOURS PER NIGHT TWICE WEEKLY. I DON'T KNOM WHAT THE COST WAS TO THE STATE AT THAT TIME BUT THIS IS THE AMOUNT MY LOCAL HAS INVESTED IN THIS PROGRAM. OUR TRAINING FACILITY COST APPROXIMATLEY \$7.5 MILLION, THE COST FOR EQUIPMENT OVER \$600,000 AND OUR ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THIS YEAR IS \$2.1 MILLION. THIS INCLUDES NOT ONLY APPRENTICE CLASSES BUT ALSO JOURNEYMAN UPGRADE CLASSES. WE ARE NOW SCHEDULING SOLAR THERMAL CLASSES AT NO CHARGE FOR OUR MEMBERS. IF WE DIDN'T PROVIDE THESE PROGRAMS IT WOULD BE THE STATE'S OBLIGATION TO DO SO. ALL OF THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A STATE PREVAILING WAGE LAW WITH REASONABLE THRESHOLDS.

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HEARING MARCH 10, 2011**

I AM EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO EACH MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE TO VISIT OUR TRAINING CENTER IN MERIDEN AT ANY TIME. I WILL BE GLAD TO ACCOMPANY ANYONE AT ANY TIME OR ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR A GROUP VISIT.

SEE ATTACHED LETTER AND OLR REPORT OT PREVAILING WAGE THRESHOLDS FOR OTHER STATES.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT AND COMPLEX ISSUE. IF ANY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER I CAN BE REACHED AT [camc@att.net](mailto:camc@att.net) or CELL (860) 287-0020



ROBERT J CARTWRIGHT  
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15 May 1992

CONNECTICUT PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS  
Local 305  
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382

Re: Josephine Hulsebosch

Dear Connecticut,

I wish to inform you that my Mother, Josephine Hulsebosch, wife of Alexander C. Hulsebosch, died peacefully at home on 12 May 1992. My Mom was 88 years old.

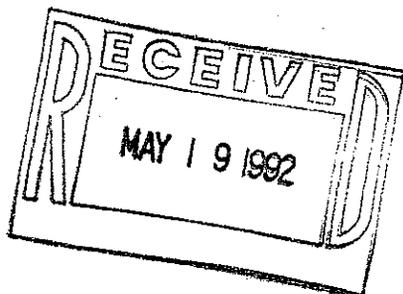
My Mom would also want me to thank you for your excellent management of the pension fund and for the check which she has received since my Father died in 1979. She was always grateful to my father and to you for that continued financial support. Because of it she was able to remain independent, financially responsible, and at home until the day she died.

Kindly arrange for the discontinuance of any future checks to Josephine Hulsebosch. Also, please accept my personal gratitude, respect and thanks for your support of my mother these many years, and for all of your kindnesses to her.

Sincerely yours,

*Robert J. Cartwright*

Robert J. Cartwright





States use a variety of thresholds to determine when prevailing wages must be paid. Among them, only Maryland has a higher threshold than Connecticut for new construction projects. Four states (Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, and Vermont) have higher thresholds for remodeling projects, although these states use the same threshold for both new construction and remodeling projects. Nine states (Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia) have no threshold and generally apply prevailing wage laws to all of their public projects. Most of the prevailing wage states set one threshold amount for all of their public projects. Table 1 shows the threshold amounts in all 32 prevailing wage states as of January 1, 2010.

**Table 1: Dollar Threshold Amount for Contract Coverage under State Prevailing Wage Laws**

<b>State</b>	<b>Threshold Amount</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Threshold Amount</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	\$ 2,000	<b>Nebraska</b>	None
<b>Arkansas</b>	\$ 75,000	<b>Nevada</b>	\$ 100,000
<b>California</b>	\$ 1,000	<b>New Jersey</b>	\$ 2,000 \$ 14,187 if the work is done for municipality
<b>Connecticut</b>	\$ 400,000 for new construction \$ 100,000 for remodeling	<b>New Mexico</b>	\$ 60,000
<b>Delaware</b>	\$ 100,000 for new construction \$ 15,000 for remodeling	<b>New York</b>	None
<b>Hawaii</b>	\$ 2,000	<b>Ohio <sup>1</sup></b>	\$ 78,258 for new construction \$ 23,447 for remodeling
<b>Illinois</b>	None	<b>Oregon</b>	\$ 25,000

<b>Indiana</b>	\$ 150,000	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	\$ 25,000
<b>Kentucky</b>	\$ 250,000	<b>Rhode Island</b>	\$ 1,000
<b>Maine</b>	\$ 50,000	<b>Tennessee</b>	\$ 50,000
<b>Maryland</b>	\$ 500,000	<b>Texas</b>	None
<b>Massachusetts</b>	None	<b>Vermont</b>	\$ 250,000
<b>Michigan</b>	None	<b>Washington</b> <sup>2</sup>	None
<b>Minnesota</b>	\$ 25,000 where more than one trade is involved  \$ 2,500 where a single trade is involved	<b>West Virginia</b> <sup>3</sup>	None
<b>Missouri</b>	None	<b>Wisconsin</b> <sup>4</sup>	\$ 25,000
<b>Montana</b>	\$ 25,000	<b>Wyoming</b>	\$ 25,000

Source: U. S. Department of Labor (as of January 1, 2010)

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Ohio adjusts threshold amounts every two years, according to the change in the US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census Implicit Price Deflator for Construction, but no increase or decrease may exceed 6% for the two-year period.

<sup>2</sup> Washington — A separate law for State college or university construction sets a \$ 25,000 threshold.

<sup>3</sup> West Virginia — A \$ 50,000 threshold applies for West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council projects.

<sup>4</sup> Wisconsin — Prevailing wage rates also apply to private enterprise dominated projects if local governments are responsible for at least \$ 1 million of the project's funding.